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ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE: March 15, 2021 ends the Indiana Energy Assistance Moratorium protection. Review your monthly statement closely; you will need to bring your account current by close-of-business on the March due date.

If you are concerned about your ability to pay the full account balance, contact the office prior to the due date to discuss your account and possible repayment options.

A CONSUMER FACT SHEET FROM THE INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILTIY CONSUMER COUNSELOR

IN.gov/oucc/2382.htm

What Every Utility Consumer Should Know:

- You are responsible for paying all bills on time and in full.
- If you are unable to pay for your utility services, you are responsible for contacting the utility immediately to determine if alternate payment arrangements can be made.
- If you receive a disconnection notice, contact the utility right away and:
 - o Discuss exactly why you received the notice.
 - O Discuss payment plan options, if you are facing disconnection due to nonpayment.
 - o Remember that under certain circumstances, utilities are required to provide options while continuing to provide service. In other cases, they *may* provide such options.
- While the OUCC does not offer financial assistance, various programs can help low-income households.

Service disconnection rules vary by type of utility. This summary only applies to utilities that are regulated by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC).

FLOODING AND NATURAL GAS METERS: Spring in



Indiana often brings localized flooding to our service area; South Eastern Indiana Natural Gas Co., Inc. wants to ensure you know what to do to help keep the natural gas system safe and reliable.

If water rises to the level of our gas meter and/or regulator, notify the Gas Co. at (812)654-2444 or (800)379-1800 immediately. A Field Service Technician will need to inspect the situation, and after the water recedes some of our equipment may need replaced.

Flooding is an example of a situation that may require the utility to shut off specific properties or areas. To communicate with our customers and inform them in a timely manner of any disruption in service, keep your contact information up to date.

NATURAL GAS WINTER HEATING TIPS

During the month of February, much of the nation experienced lower than normal temperatures, including Indiana. Below are some tips to help conserve and lower your gas usages.

- Lower your thermostat by a few degrees in the winter. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60° to 70° range, you may save up to 5% on heating costs.
- Invest in a programmable thermostat. Using a programmable thermostat enables you to lower the temperature when you are at work or asleep and raise the temperature before you return home to maximize comfort.
- Flip your fan switch. If your ceiling fan has a reverse switch, you will want to flip that when you turn the heat on, making the fan's blades spin clockwise – this will force the heat down from the ceiling.
- Move furniture away from vents. Look around the house and double check that no vents are blocked.
- Look for air leaks. Seal ducts and plug door and window leaks.

COVID - 19 UPDATE: LOBBY REMAINS CLOSED, EXCEPT BY APPOINTMENT. FACE MASK / COVERING IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY. THERE IS A DROP BOX IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE FOR PAYMENTS.